

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Yet they are clearly taking a political stand and using their position to offer what is basically free advertising to the Republican party, while calling it "news".

I urge you to do whatever is in the FCC's power to prevent Sinclair from abusing its position in this way. At the most, Sinclair should be required to show a program of equal length from an opposing viewpoint, and with no or equivalent editorializing in presenting both points of view. If they are unwilling to do this, they should be prevented from airing what is clearly a one-sided, politically-motivated piece so close to our presidential election.

In the bigger picture, it is vital that the FCC step up its efforts to monitor the actions of the stations and owners that are entrusted to serve the American public in an unbiased manner.

Thank you.